(b) Normally salt commodity is given 'D' Priority, but if movement of iodised salt or salt for iodisation is recommended by Salt Commissioner's Office, it is given 'C' Priority, with the approval of Zonal Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Railway rakes are being supplied as per demand.

Service benefits to transshipment workers

4093. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority granted service benefits to transshipment workers of Transshipment Shed, Tiruchirappally after the order dated 4th February, 1987 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. No. 171/86;

(b) if so, whether authorities would apply above order while considering the service benefits of servers/bearers who served as commission servers/bearers in the catering wing of commercial department of Southern Railway and who were latter named as salary bearers/servers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court by a judgement dated 4.2.1987 in W.P. No. 171/86 directed the Railway Administration to treat piece rate labourers of Transshipment Shed, Tiruchirappally as temporary employees. As such 276 piece rate employees were absorbed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Neither the facts nor the law laid down in the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Judgement dated 4.2.1987 (W.P. No. 171/86) is applicable to the cases of Commission Bearers/Servers.

Mishap at unmanned level crossing near Kancheepuram

4094. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that a recent major mishap occurred at the

unmanned level crossing near Kancheepuram, is the very same place where 17 lives in a similar mishap that has happened some time back;

(b) if so, whether it would not be prudent for the authorities to take prompt action to avert this kind of mishap;

(c) whether there would be a comprehensive approach in terms of resource and fixation of time-frame to tackle this major problem; and

(d) what could be the resource required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. An accident took place at unmanned level crossing No. 36 on 16.4.2007 near Kancheepuram in Chengalpattu-Arakkonam Section of Chennai Division of Southern Railway in which 11 persons lost their lives. In the same Section another accident took place at a different location on unmanned level crossing No. 34 on 31.10.2006 in which 17 persons lost their lives.

(b) to (d) Most of such accidents occur due to negligence of road users who fail to observe the prescribed precautions, at the time of crossing the track amounting to violation of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Act. In order to prevent such accidents railways conduct widespread public awareness campaigns to educate the road users. Efforts are also made to close down sparingly used such level crossings in close proximity to each other. Provision of manning of level crossings or Road-Over-Bridge/Road-Under-Bridge already exists provided the traffic density has exceeded the prescribed limit. Very recently it has been decided to provide limited use sub-ways wherever feasible at railways cost unlike as in case of Road-Over-Bridge/Road-Under-Bridge where cost is shared between railways and the State Government.

Setting up fire testing laboratory

4095. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to set-up fire testing laboratory at Railway Research Design and Standard Organisation is still hanging; and